



Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

INDOOR AIR QUALITY TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS UPDATE

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News and Events

- **Forty-two percent** of U.S. children are exposed to secondhand smoke each week, often on school grounds, in parks, and other public places, [according to a survey](#) just released by the American Legacy Foundation, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and Mississippi State University. This offers us another reminder of how important it is for schools to enforce strict no smoking policies campus-wide. For more on secondhand smoke and schools, visit the **IAQ Tools for Schools** [Reference Guide](#) section on secondhand smoke.
- [EPA's Radon Program](#), in partnership with the National Safety Council, recently held the 2009 **National Radon Poster Contest Award Ceremony** in Washington, D.C., to recognize the three national student winners whose posters generated interest, enthusiasm, and called for action on radon. Check out the national and state [award winning posters](#) today!

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Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programs for the Future

When you think about healthy IAQ, do you think about pest management? If not, it's time to start. Pests and techniques to manage them can pose serious health risks for anyone on a school campus if they aren't well managed. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a comprehensive approach to eliminating and preventing pest problems with an emphasis on reducing pest habitats and food sources. Studies conducted over the past 15 years show that pest problems in schools and commonly used, but unsafe, pest management practices have put the nation's children at risk for long-term health effects and reduced school attendance.

Recognizing the critical need to help schools implement IPM programs, EPA recently released [School IPM 2015: a Strategic Plan for Integrated Pest Management in Schools in the United States](#). The plan's goal is to help all schools in the U.S. to achieve a 70 to 90 percent reduction in pest complaints and pesticide use by 2015. Developed in cooperation with the U.S Department of Agriculture and the IPM Institute of North America, the plan helps schools set substantial near- and long-term goals to reduce pest problems and pesticide exposure through comprehensive roadmaps that teach schools about pest biology, inspection and monitoring, and pest prevention—the keys to successfully implementing an effective IPM program. The technical information is supplemented with strategies schools can use to raise awareness about IPM and its vital role in school health. Key decision-makers will also learn about costs and benefits and how to develop the financial, material, and human resources necessary to implement an effective IPM program.

Actions for Strong Integrated Pest Management

- Establish an IPM plan
- Inspect and monitor for pests
- Use spot treatments and baits
- Communicate with occupants prior to pesticide use
- Mark indoor and outdoor areas treated with pesticides

From the Field

"At Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools there has been a concerted effort to reduce the amount of chemicals and pesticides used. Custodians, kitchen staff, and classroom teachers have been trained in good cleaning practices and other preventive measures to prevent pests in the first place (source control). We have also educated parents about the importance of IPM and use of IPM within the schools. IPM is about keeping harsh chemical and pesticides away from children." —*Brian Kasher, Manager of Environmental Health and Safety, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools*

Read more about IPM in the [IAQ TFS Action Kit](#), and in the School IPM 2015 strategic plan to find tips and resources for addressing this critical need in your school. For more information about EPA's IPM Program, visit www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/schoolipm2015.htm.

EPA CARE Grants Funding Opportunity!

Approximately 3 million dollars in cooperative agreements will be awarded through the EPA Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program. Information on how to apply, questions and answers, and all details regarding the request for proposals can be found at www.epa.gov/care. Project proposals are due **March 16, 2009**.

What is CARE?

CARE is a unique, community-based, community-driven multimedia program designed to help communities understand and reduce risks from a broad range of toxic pollutants. The CARE grant program works with organizations of all kinds to help their communities form collaborative partnerships, develop an understanding of the many local sources of risk from toxic pollutants, set priorities, and identify and carry out projects to reduce risk through collaborative action at the local level. Since the program's inception in 2005, grantees have addressed radon, asthma, environmental tobacco smoke, mold, healthy homes and healthy schools. Descriptions of CARE communities and details regarding the request for proposals can be found at www.epa.gov/care.

Have Your Questions Answered!

Is there a topic you want to see covered in an *IAQ TFS* Update? Need more information or have a quick question? Do you have suggestions for a Webinar, an Update feature, or are simply curious about an IAQ topic and would like more information? If so, send us an e-mail at IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

Share YOUR news and events! Send us information to share with the school IAQ community. It could be featured in the next Update. E-mail your news to IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

If you like what you're reading, maybe a friend or colleague would too—forward this e-mail! To subscribe to *IAQ TFS* Updates, send an e-mail to IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com with "subscribe" in the subject line.

The *IAQ TFS* Program is a comprehensive resource to help schools maintain a healthy environment in school buildings by identifying, correcting, and preventing IAQ problems. Learn more about the *IAQ TFS* Program at www.epa.gov/iaq/schools.